

December 14, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The MiLW Blog: MSC launches 'Court Stories' video series

"The Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information has launched a new online video series, 'Court Stories,' debuting today on the "Michigan Courts" YouTube channel and on the Court's website. The aim is to tell the everyday stories of Michigan courts and the people they serve."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

***Court Stories*, new online video series about Michigan courts, debuts today**

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Judge rips into murderer as 'loser,' 'chameleon' and 'coward'

"[Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda Evans] on Friday had a comforting message for a family grieving over their murdered daughter and harsh words for the man who helped carry out the crime.... Per the plea agreement, [Miguel] Rodriguez was sentenced to 20 to 35 years in prison."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Pretrial hearing for Joseph Gentz in Bashara case postponed

"A pretrial hearing for Joseph Gentz, accused of killing Grosse Pointe Park business woman Jane Bashara, was postponed until Dec. 21 by Wayne Circuit Court Judge Vonda R. Evans on Friday. Gentz, 48, faces first-degree murder and conspiracy charges in the death of Bashara, who Gentz said he killed in January under the direction of her husband, Bob Bashara."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Bashara to begin prison sentence in isolation

"Robert Bashara will begin his prison sentence isolated from other inmates, corrections officials said Friday. Bashara pleaded guilty to solicitation for murder and was sentenced last week to 6 to 20 years in prison after trying to hire a hit man to kill Joseph Gentz, the man accused of murdering his wife."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Courthouse closed over gas leak to reopen today (seventh article)

"A natural gas leak closed the 35th District Court for the day Thursday. Officials blamed the mishap on a boiler, where independent contractors worked on Wednesday. The court is expected to reopen today."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Plymouth court to reopen (fifth article)

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Federal judges sue to win millions of dollars in promised pay increases

"With the nation teetering on an economic 'fiscal cliff,' federal judges may soon force Congress to dedicate possibly millions of dollars to what some of those same judges must consider a worthy cause: their own salaries."

[Full story](#)

The Argus-Press/Owosso: Open house honors longtime judge

"Hundreds of people attended an open house Tuesday in the 66th District Courthouse to honor Judge James R. Clatterbaugh, who is retiring at the end of the month after 27 years on the bench. During the event, Clatterbaugh, 69, received a congratulatory proclamation from the Michigan Supreme Court. In addition, a portrait of the judge was unveiled that will hang in the courthouse."

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Court rules against Thumb Township in sewage flap

"The Michigan appeals court says the state Constitution offers no protection to a township in a dispute over failed septic tanks near Lake Huron. The Michigan Supreme Court already has ruled that Worth Township can be held responsible for failed private septic systems that foul the lake. Now the appeals court has weighed in this week, saying the Sanilac County Township can't escape the expense under the 1978 Headlee Amendment."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Local Voice: The seven-day rule

Ingham County Probate Court Administrator/Register George M. Strander writes "Our court rules have long provided for the entry of a judgment or order at some point after the judge's verbal decision in court.... One popular method for such delayed entry is the so-called 'Seven Day Rule' (SDR)."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News and the Oakland County Legal News.

Dowagiac Daily News: Berrien judge speaks at DUHS

"Berrien County Judge Scott Schofield is so passionate about accepting responsibility, the Niles resident blogs on the topic. He drew on football, opera, Jekyll and Hyde, 'Baywatch's' David Hasselhoff, nerd comedy 'The Big Bang Theory' and the story of Adam and Eve to make his points Friday [December 7] to Dowagiac Union High School civics students taught by Dan VandenHeede, who is also a Niles councilman."

[Full story](#)

The Evening News/Sault Ste. Marie, MI: Failure to timely file a Response to a Motion for summary disposition

"In Citibank, NA v Renner, unpublished opinion, per curiam (#308841, 11/27/2012) the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's Order of dismissal, in part, because of plaintiff's failure to timely file a brief in opposition to defendants' Motion for summary disposition."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Cheboygan Daily Tribune, the Daily Reporter/Coldwater, the Daily Telegram/Adrian, the Hillsdale Daily News, the Ionia Sentinel-Standard and the Sturgis Journal.

Flint Journal: Second overcrowding emergency this year declared at Genesee County Jail

"An overcrowding emergency has been declared at the Genesee County Jail for the second time this year, according to Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell.... Genesee Chief Circuit Judge Richard Yuille can begin releasing offenders held on less than \$5,000 bonds on Saturday, Dec. 15, according to the sheriff."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Judge gives Charles Brown, 20, life without parole: 'Over a handful of marijuana, somebody has lost their life'

"... Charles Brown, 20, learned he would spend the rest of his life behind bars for the murder of Michael Bockheim. He will have no possibility of parole. [Circuit Court Judge Mark Trusock also] tacked on two years for using a firearm during a felony, and 40 to 80 years for armed robbery."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Ottawa County Board of Commissioners says goodbye to 6 members

"... The county board also acknowledged Tuesday the retirement of long-time 58th District Judge Richard Kloote and Drain Commissioner Paul Geerlings.... Kloote served 13 years as chief judge and 10 years as chief judge pro tem."

[Full story](#)

Ludington Daily News: County board honors departing members, county officials

"... [The Mason County Board of Commissioners] also honored other county officials who will leave their positions Jan. 1. They are:... Mark Raven, who worked as probate judge for 18 years."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Helping victims of domestic and sexual violence

"Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed an executive order establishing the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board to help better protect victims and prevent future crimes.... Appointed to the new board are Jeffrey Sauter, [15th District Court Judge] Elizabeth Pollard Hines, Yvonne Brantley, Kathryn Hoover, Jeffrie Cape, James Fink and Cris Mary Sullivan."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

MLive.com: MGTv, Michigan's government cable station, to be replaced with online format

"The state government cable channel is going all-online. Michigan Government Television, or MGTv, will be replaced with the MiTV web portal in January.... MGTv gave its equipment to DTMB so it can continue broadcasting government activities."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: McDonald to continue to serve as judge for child medical abuse pre-lim

"With everyone's OK, Gratiot's District Court Judge Stewart McDonald will oversee the preliminary examination for Katie Hedrick, who has been charged with first degree criminal child abuse.... McDonald explained that when he learned one of the prosecution's witnesses in the pre-lim was to be Jeff Hedrick, Katie Hedrick's ex husband, he felt he should disclose the fact that he had represented Jeff Hedrick in two previous divorce cases."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon County Legal News: Smedley remains winner after recount of ballots cast for Muskegon County Circuit Judge

"After three full days of recounting Muskegon County ballots cast in the race for the 14th Circuit Judge, the State Board of Canvassers has certified that Annette Smedley remains the winner. She will be sworn into office on Dec. 28. The recount left Smedley with a margin of 221 votes."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Michigan Appeals Court rules family court judges have jurisdiction to grant second parent adoptions to same-sex couples

"WDIV reports that the Michigan Appeals Court ruled that family court judges have jurisdiction to grant second-parent adoptions to same-sex couples. The court also said that the birth mother cannot void an adoption just because she broke up with her former partner."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan Appeals Court rules family court has jurisdiction to grant 2nd-parent adoptions to same-sex couples

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: Salamey sworn in as 19th District chief judge

"Pride and unity. Those were two of the themes that were woven throughout the investiture ceremony Wednesday evening for new 19th District Judge Sam Salamey, who will take office Jan. 2.... Salamey — a former 19th District magistrate who had been running a law office on Chase Road — emphasized unity in his speech shortly after being sworn in by state Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra, saying as chief judge he would do his best to help the court put its legal and emotional struggles in the past."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: What's Practice And Procedure? The Fight Goes On In Michigan

"On a question that only lawyers are likely to care about, the Michigan Supreme Court continues to carry on an ideological split opened up by McDougall v. Schanz over what constitutes 'practice and procedure' for purposes of allocating power between the judicial and legislative branches."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Governor Seeks Applicants for Judicial Vacancies in Lapeer and Berrien Counties

"The Governor is seeking applications for qualified members of the bar to fill vacancies in the 40th Circuit Court, Lapeer County, and 5th District Court, Berrien County. The application deadline for both seats is January 16, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Judicial celebration

"Judges present and future, barristers, children's advocates, family, friends and well-wishers gathered in St. Joseph County Probate Court Wednesday afternoon [December 5] for a tribute to Judge Thomas Shumaker who retires from the bench at the end of this year.... Jim Hughes of the Michigan Supreme Court's Region II administrative office presented Shumaker with a commendation personally signed by all of Michigan's justices recognizing Shumaker's years of service."

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Accused felons walk free from court; Cases dismissed when police officers fail to appear in court

"Local 4 Defenders uncovered a problem going on in our court system that could affect the safety of your family: criminals able to walk free simply because police officers are not showing up in court to testify. Local 4 Defender Karen Drew discovered this problem happening with Detroit police officers not showing up at the 36th District Court. Many times when they don't show up the case is dismissed, leaving the accused criminal to walk free."

[Full story](#)

WLUC-TV(6)/Negaunee: Court upholds decision in extortion and terrorist threat trial

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of a Schoolcraft County man on seven counts of extortion, one count of making a terrorist threat and one count of using a computer to commit a crime. Peter Charles Markham was found guilty after a jury trial earlier last year."

[Full story](#)